

which, in the opinion of the appropriate TTB officer, are appropriate to the type of operation being conducted. These records will include information sufficient to account for the receipt, production, and disposition of all beer received or produced on the premises, and the receipt (and disposition, if removed) of all brewing materials. These records will be available for inspection by an appropriate TTB officer.

(Sec. 4, Pub. L. 91-673, 84 Stat. 2057, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5417))

[T.D. ATF-224, 51 FR 7673, Mar. 5, 1986, as amended by T.D. ATF-345, 58 FR 40357, July 28, 1993; T.D. ATF-437, 66 FR 5480, Jan. 19, 2001]

§ 25.277 Discontinuance of operations.

When operations of a pilot brewing plant are to be discontinued, the operator shall notify the appropriate TTB officer stating the purpose of the notice and giving the date of discontinuance. When operations have been completed and all beer at the premises has been disposed of and accounted for, the appropriate TTB officer will note approval on the notice and return a copy to the operator.

Subpart T—Refund or Adjustment of Tax or Relief From Liability

§ 25.281 General.

(a) *Reasons for refund or adjustment of tax or relief from liability.* The tax paid by a brewer on beer produced in the United States may be refunded, or adjusted on the tax return (without interest) or, if the tax has not been paid, the brewer may be relieved of liability for the tax on:

(1) Beer returned to any brewery of the brewer subject to the conditions outlined in subpart M of this part;

(2) Beer voluntarily destroyed by the brewer subject to the conditions outlined in subpart N of this part;

(3) Beer lost by fire, theft, casualty, or act of God subject to the conditions outlined in § 25.282.

(b) *Refund of beer tax excessively paid.* A brewer may be refunded the tax excessively paid on beer subject to the conditions outlined in § 25.285.

(c) *Rate of tax.* Brewers who have filed the notice required by § 25.167 and who

have paid the tax on beer at the reduced rate of tax shall make claims for refund or relief of tax, or adjustments on the tax return, based upon the lower rate of tax. However, a brewer may make adjustments or claims for refund or relief of tax based on the higher rate of tax if the brewer can establish to the satisfaction of the appropriate TTB officer that the tax was paid or determined at the higher rate of tax.

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1335, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5056))

§ 25.282 Beer lost by fire, theft, casualty, or act of God.

(a) *General.* The tax paid by any brewer on beer produced in the United States may be adjusted (without interest) on the excise tax return, may be refunded or credited (without interest) or, if the tax has not been paid, the brewer may be relieved of liability for the tax if, before transfer of title to the beer to any other person, the beer is lost, whether by theft or otherwise, or is destroyed or otherwise rendered unmerchantable by fire, casualty, or act of God. The tax liability on excessive losses of beer from transfer between breweries of the same ownership may be remitted as provided in § 25.286.

(b) *Unmerchantable beer.* When beer is rendered unmerchantable by fire, casualty, or act of God, refund, credit or adjustment of tax, or relief from liability of tax will not be allowed unless the brewer proves to the satisfaction of the appropriate TTB officer that the beer cannot be salvaged and returned to the market for consumption or sale.

(c) *Beer lost or destroyed.* When beer is lost or destroyed, whether by theft or otherwise, the appropriate TTB officer may require the brewer to file a claim for relief from the tax and to submit proof as to the cause of the loss.

(d) *Beer lost by theft.* When it appears that beer was lost by theft, the tax shall be collected unless the brewer proves to the satisfaction of the appropriate TTB officer that the theft occurred before removal from the brewery and occurred without connivance, collusion, fraud, or negligence on the part of the brewer, consignor, consignee, bailee, or carrier, or the employees or agents of any of them.